Talent pool of scientists and technicians

4594. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a talent pool of scientists and technicians ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Senior Research Associateship Scheme previously called Scientist Pool Scheme is being implemented since 1958 to provide temporary placement to bright highly qualified Indian Scientists/Engineers/Doctors including those returning from abroad. The scheme allows the recipients to continue to do research in the field of their choice while looking for a regular employment.

PA System at coastal villages

4595. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Public Address System established by the M.S. Swami Nathan Research Foundation at coastal villages of Pondicherry saved thousands of human life from the Tsunami waves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware that the public address system established by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) at coastal villages of Pondicherry saved thousands of human lives from the Tsunami waves. However, as per the information received from MSSRF, the foundation has set up Rural Knowledge Centres (RKCs) in 12 villages in Pondicherry. These RKCs are connected through a hybrid wired and wireless network and provide information on agriculture, health, weather, employment, education, government entitlements and micro enterprises training etc. 4 out of the 12 RKCs are in coastal villages, where most of the families are involved in fishing. The MSSRF broadcasts information through a

public address system for the benefit of fishermen. The public address system is also used for announcing various government schemes related to fishermen on a regular basis. The network played an important role immediately following the first Tsunami attack and in post Tsunami relief.

Brain drain of scientists and technologists

4596. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a brain drain of scientists and technologists in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that have been taken to check brain drain of scientists and technologists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Some scientists and technologists do migrate to other countries for various reasons including financial and academic gains. However, no record of such scientists and technologists leaving the country is being maintained centrally.

(c) Several measures have been taken from time to time by the Government to check the brain drain of scientists and technologists. Some of these measures are:

- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies in the universities and academic institutions.
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
- S&T based training for entrepreneurial development.
- Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plan.
- Creation of new/scientific Departments/Organisations.
- Delegation of advanced administrative and financial powers to S&T institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.
- Manpower development training/re-training programmes through associateships/fellowships.